

The Old Paths

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." -Jeremiah 6:16

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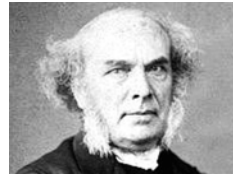


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Dissatisfaction - The Forerunner of Revival



God has set a limit upon the defection of His Church; when the night is at its darkest the dawn is on the way. The inner history of revivals is characterized by a profound sense of dissatisfaction awakening in many hearts. A period of gloom sets in, a weariness and exhaustion invade the heart, the pleasures of the world no longer satisfy. Sick in soul, men turn with a sigh to God; dimly they awake to the consciousness that, in trading heavenly for earthly joys, they have encountered great loss; that in the decay of spiritual vision the world has lost its soul of loveliness. Slowly this aching grows, the heart of man begins to cry out for God, for spiritual

certainities, for fresh visions. From a faint desire this multiplies as it widens, until it becomes a vast human need; until in its urgency it seems to beat with violence at the very gates of Heaven.

Within the Church itself, also, through all its days of defection, there have been many who have not bowed the knee to Baal, who have mourned its loss of spiritual power, and who have never ceased to pray earnestly for a revival of its spiritual life. For long their prayers seemed to be unanswered; it appeared as if God had forgotten to be gracious. Gradually, however, the numbers are found to increase; prayer becomes more urgent and more confident; the condition of the Church, its want of spiritual life, the weakness of its spiritual witness, the need of a fresh baptism of spiritual power become apparent. This need weighs more and more upon the hearts of the devout. Longing for better things becomes an intense pain; men begin to gather in companies to pray; they cease not to cry out to God day and night, often with tears, beseeching Him to visit with His divine power the souls of men, and to pour into the empty cisterns a mighty flood of divine life. In many different parts, quite unconnected with each other, this spirit of intercession awakes, and with it an expectation that will not be denied, a premonition that there is at hand the dawn of better days.

Thus we see how at such times all things seem to unite and cry out for a revival; the waters are far withdrawn, and heaped up, are foaming and fretting behind the barricade. The times are ripe; the

soul of man weary of wandering, cries out for God; a spirit of intense expectation is abroad, of dissatisfaction with the past, of earnest longing regarding the future. Once more the long and bitter night has ended; the dawn is at hand, for "the fullness of the time" has come. Is the church today ready to hear that voice? Is she bowed down before God in prostration of need, in conscious dejection of unworthiness, in passionate self-abasement and desire for that renewal which comes through renunciation? It may well be doubted. It is upon the hearts of the few that the agony falls.

James Burns - Used powerfully of God in revival in Scotland in the 1800's. A writer on revival and the need thereof. "To the church a revival means humiliation, a bitter knowledge of failure.. It is not the easy and glowing thing many think it to be, who imagine that it fills the empty pews, and reinstates the Church in power and authority it comes to scorch before it comes to heal it comes to rebuke ministers and people for their unfaithful witness, for their selfish living, for their neglect of the Cross, and to call them to daily renunciation, to an evangelical poverty, and to a deep and daily consecration."



The Need For Revivals

"It is as much the duty of the Church to awaken and work..."

What is a revival? Now listen to me. A revival does two things. First, it returns the Church from her backsliding and second, it causes the conversion of men and women; and it always includes the conviction of sin on the part of the Church. What a spell the devil seems to cast over the Church today!

God Almighty never intended that the devil should triumph over the Church. He never intended that the saloons should walk rough-shod over Christianity. And if you think that anybody is going to frighten me, you don't know me yet.

When is a revival needed? When the individuals are careless and unconcerned. If the Church were down on her face in prayer they would be more concerned with the fellow outside. The Church has degenerated into a third-rate amusement joint, with religion left out.

When is a revival needed? When carelessness and unconcern keep the people asleep. It is as much the duty of the Church to awaken and work and labor for the men and women of this city as it is the duty of the fire department to rush out when the call

sounds. What would you think of the fire department if it slept while the town burned? You would condemn them, and I will condemn you if you sleep and let men and women go to hell. It is just as much your business to be awake. The Church of God is asleep today; it is turned into a dormitory; and has taken the devil's opiates.

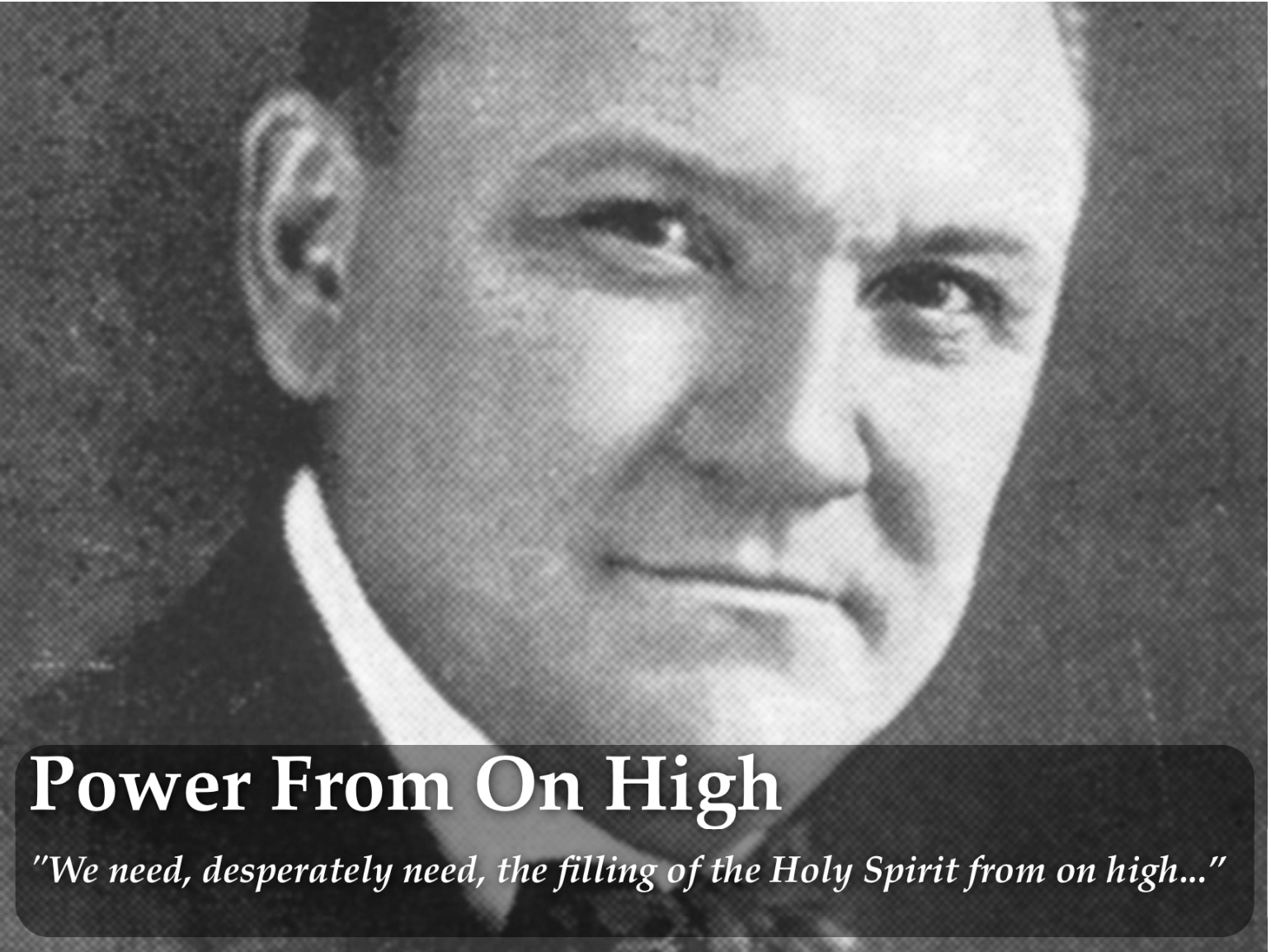
When may a revival be expected? When the wickedness of the wicked grieves and distresses the Christian. Sometimes people don't seem to mind the sins of other people. Don't seem to mind while boys and girls walk the streets of their city and know more of evil than gray-haired men. You are asleep.

When is a revival needed? When the Christians have lost the spirit of prayer.

When is a revival needed? When you feel the want of revival and feel the need of it. Men have had this feeling, ministers have had it until they thought they would die unless a revival would come to awaken their people, their students, their deacons and their Sunday-school workers, unless they would fall down on their faces and renounce the

world and the works and deceits of the devil. When the Church of God draws its patrons from the theaters the theaters will close up, or else take the dirty, rotten plays off the stage.

Billy Sunday (1862-1935) - was a popular professional baseball player during the 1880s and then the most celebrated and influential American evangelist during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Sunday was a major influence in the temperance movement, which led to the adoption of Prohibition in 1919. One of his most famous sermons was "Booze, Or, Get on the Water Wagon. Sunday preached temperance, personal salvation, and middle-class values, and he used his athleticism and energy to express a muscular version of Christianity.



Power From On High

"We need, desperately need, the filling of the Holy Spirit from on high..."

Before sinners will be won to the Lord, there must be revival in the hearts of the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. We need, desperately need, the filling of the Holy Spirit from on high. Winning men and women to Christ Jesus is a miracle. It requires supernatural power. Nothing less than the Holy Spirit Himself can convict and regenerate the human heart. The Holy Spirit works through the Word borne by believers.

It is not soul-winning to lure Christians from other churches to our own. Men need to be brought to Jesus Christ and not to particular views of Christianity. Winning men to the Lord is the object.

We dare not attempt the winning of the souls of men with the puny resources of humanity. This is the work of God! Before God will work, He insists we see our need of Him. There must be a searching of our hearts.

In these days, I am amazed to find that people who have said they were saved have only a head knowl-

edge and depend upon a mental assent to the truths of the Gospel for their salvation. There is no change of life, no reality, no new birth. It is no wonder that they have left the gathering of believers -- "for what fellowship has...light with darkness?" (2 Cor. 6:14).

Their tragedy, however, lies in their seeking out the other "almost" Christians who like them are dead, with form but no power, in fact denying the regenerating power. The promise of the Lord in Deuteronomy 4:29 and Jeremiah 29:13 is that when you seek God with all your heart and all your soul, you will find Him! There must be that "life or death" seeking of the Lord at any cost! The Spirit Himself will bear witness with our spirit when we are the children of God (Romans 8:17).

How we need to be conscious of the power, majesty, greatness, and foreknowledge of our God as were the disciples! How vital that we, too, speak the Word with boldness, and that God by His power through the name of Jesus would grant to us the signs and wonders to confirm His word!

The place where we are ought to be shaken. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit! We need to speak the Word with all boldness. Let us obey God and pray that in these latter days men may be won to the Lord Jesus Christ!

Paul Rader (1878-1938). Rader was one of the most powerful evangelistic preachers of the early 20th Century. He described himself as an "ex-bellboy, ex-cowboy, ex-pro prospector, ex-football player, and ex-pugilist." He pastored Moody Church in Chicago, Illinois (1915-1921), and followed founder Albert Simpson as president of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (1920-1923). Rader founded the Chicago Gospel Tabernacle in 1922 and pastored it for 11 years. He wrote many Gospel song lyrics and a few tunes, and was instrumental in the founding of the Tabernacle Publishing Company.



Are We Ready?

“Is the Church ready for this glorious day? Has she put on her apparel?”

Is the Church ready for this glorious day? Has she put on her apparel? Has she trimmed and lighted her lamp? Has she filled her vessel with oil? Is she sitting loose from the world? Is she remembering her coming Lord, and seeking to be faithful to Him in His absence? He has intrusted to her His cause, His truth, His honour. Is she alive to her responsibility, and acting accordingly? Is she realising His nearness and His glory? Is she daily influenced by His sure word of promise, “Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me?” Is she labouring and suffering for Him? Or is she self-indulgent, worldly, indolent, as if the Lord were not coming, and as if He were bringing no reward with Him?

Look forwards! Look upwards! Stand apart from a present evil world. Remember that in the last days perilous times shall come. It remains for us that we let our light shine and keep our garments undefiled. Labour on, O man of faith! labour on; the toil and the battle will soon be done, and thou shalt rest from thy labours, and thy works shall follow thee.

Beware of the leaven of the last days,—the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees,—the leaven of mingled infidelity and superstition,—the leaven of atheism and pantheism.

“Liberality” is the watchword; but is it the liberality of the Bible or of God? Is it the liberality of Him who says in reference to false teaching, “WHICH THING I HATE?” (ch. 2:15). Beware of letting go the truth of God; of either denying, or disgracing, or depreciating it. “Hold fast that which thou hast.” The Master is absent; and responsibility in the Master’s absence is double responsibility. He trusts to us to maintain His truth and to honour His name, till He return. Let His Churches be faithful to their trust, honouring Him as Prophet, Priest, and King. He may be returning soon. If, on His return, He finds us unfaithful to Himself and to His truth, what shall be our recompense? Behold, He cometh! Like a trumpet-voice, let that cry go through the Churches; let it echo through earth. His long absence will soon be ended. Let us be ready: let us watch and be sober. Is the Church ready for this

glorious day? “Up, then, with speed, and work; Fling ease and self away— This is no time for thee to sleep— Up, watch, and work, and pray!”

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). He entered the Ministry of the Church of Scotland, and settled at Kelso. He joined the Free Church at the time of the Disruption of 1843, and in 1867 was moved to Edinburgh. In 1853 he was made D.D. of Aberdeen. He was a voluminous and highly popular author, and in addition to many books and tracts wrote a number of hymns, many of which, e.g., “I heard the voice of Jesus say,” became known all over the English-speaking world. His brother Andrew Bonar was also a well-known Christian writer and minister of the Free Church of Scotland.



America's Greatest Sin

"Are you seeking God's kingdom first?...."

God says there is coming a day when everything that is covered shall be brought out, shall be made known. You have never committed a sin in your life that won't be brought out in the judgment of God. Everything that you ever covered, everything you ever tried to hide, is going to be brought out. So said Jesus. "Therefore, whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness"--therefore, whatsoever he hath spoken in darkness--"shall be heard in the light" In other words, the thoughts and motives and inference of your heart that were covered up, and that you thought nobody heard, and nobody would hear about

And then He skips over to the 15th verse, and He continues: "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my goods? And he said, This will I do: I will pull

down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" Jesus said, "Beware of covetousness." And the tenth commandment says, "Thou shalt not covet". And I believe tonight that the greatest sin in America is the sin of covetousness .

Americans are considered all over the world as materialistic, worldly, secular, greedy, and covetous. We are guilty of that sin as a nation, as a people, and as individuals. Americans have the highest standard of living the world has ever known. Never in history--in Rome, in Babylon, in the great nations of the past--has there ever been a standard of living like we enjoy in America. God says that covetousness is actually idolatry, and He says a covetous person has no place in the kingdom of

God. No place in the kingdom of God. Are you seeking God's kingdom first? Are you seeking the things of Christ first? Or is your business, your pleasure, your amusement--the things of this world--first in your life

Billy Graham (1918- present). The Rev. Dr. William Franklin Graham, Jr. KBE (born November 7, 1918), commonly known as Billy Graham, is an American Protestant Christian evangelist. He has been a spiritual adviser to multiple U.S. presidents and was number 7 on Gallup's list of admired people for the 20th century. He is one of the most prominent members of the Southern Baptist Convention. Preaching to millions of people in his life-time is one of the popular evangelists of the last 100 years. Was used in revival preaching in the 1950's in large American cities.

D.L. Moody



"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all."

"If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of itself."

"A small light will do a great deal when it is in a very dark place. Put one little tallow candle in the middle of a large hall, and it will give a good deal of light."

"It is easier for me to have faith in the Bible than to have faith in D L Moody, for Moody has fooled me lots of times."

"A rule I have had for years is: to treat the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal friend. His is not a creed, a mere doctrine, but it is He Himself we have."

"Character is what you are in the dark."

"Where I was born and where and how I have lived is unimportant. It is what I have done with where I have been that should be of interest."

"I have had more trouble with myself than with any other man I've met."

"I know the Bible is inspired because it inspires me."

C.H. Spurgeon



"Little is that ministry worth that never chides you. If God never uses his minister as a rod, depend upon it he will never use him as a pot of manna, for the rod of Aaron and the pot of manna always go together, and he who is God's true servant will be both to your soul."

"If you always enjoy sermons, the minister is not a good steward. He is not acting wisely who deals out nothing but sweets."

"You are listening to a man who professes to speak by God, and for God, and to speak for your good; and his heart yearns over you. Oh, it is solemn work to preach, and it should be solemn work to hear!"

"Oh, how easy it is to exaggerate a virtue until it becomes a vice."

"I have been charged with being a mere echo of the Puritans, but I had rather be the echo of truth, than the voice of falsehood."

"We have few Puritans because we have few penitents."

"We hear complaints that the minister speaks too harshly and talks too much of judgment. Saved sinners never make that complaint."

D.E. Hoste

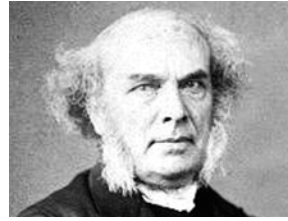


"It is morally impossible to exercise trust in God while there is failure to wait upon Him for guidance and direction. The man who does not learn to wait upon the Lord and have his thoughts molded by Him will never possess that steady purpose and calm trust, which is essential to the exercise of wise influence upon others, in times of crisis and difficulty."

"I find it a good thing to fast. I do not lay down rules for anyone in this matter, but I know it has been a good thing for me to go without meals to get time for prayer. So many say they have not sufficient time to pray. We think nothing of spending an hour or two in taking our meals."

"Should it not be recognized that the practice of prayer and intercession needs to be taught to young believers, or rather developed in young believers, quite as much, if not more so than other branches of the curriculum? Unless, however, we ourselves are, through constant persevering practice, truly alive unto God in this holy warfare, we shall be ineffective in influencing others. I am quite sure the rule holds that the more we pray the more we want to pray; the converse also being true."

Horatius Bonar



"Christ crucified is to be the burden of our preaching, and the substance of our belief, from first to last. At no time in the saint's life does he cease to need the Cross."

"Is the Church ready for this glorious day? Has she put on her apparel? Has she trimmed and lighted her lamp? Has she filled her vessel with oil? Is she sitting loose from the world? Is she remembering her coming Lord."

"Up, then, with speed, and work; Fling ease and self away-- This is no time for thee to sleep-- Up, watch, and work, and pray!"

"Processes are not always rapid. His greatest works rise slowly. Swiftmess of growth has been one of man's tests of greatness; not so it is with God. His trees grow slowly; the stateliest are the slowest. His creatures grow slowly, year by year; man, the noblest, grows the most slowly of all."

"Look forwards! Look upwards! Stand apart from a present evil world."

"Beware of letting go the truth of God; of either denying, or disgracing, or depreciating it. 'Hold fast that which thou hast.' The Master is absent; and responsibility in the Master's absence is double responsibility."

Leonard Ravenhill



"If weak in prayer we are weak everywhere."

"We Christians are debtors to all men at all times in all places, but we are so smug to the lostness of men. We've been "living in Laodicea", lax, loose, lustful, and lazy. Why is there this criminal indifference to the lostness of men? Our condemnation is that we know how to live better than we are living."

"Jesus didn't come to make bad men do good things. He came to make dead men live."

"Five minutes after you die you'll know how you should have lived."

"Everyone recognizes that Stephen was Spirit-filled when he was performing wonders. Yet, he was just as Spirit-filled when he was being stoned to death."

"Many pastors criticize me for taking the Gospel so seriously. But do they really think that on Judgment Day, Christ will chastise me, saying, 'Leonard, you took Me too seriously?'"

"If there are a million roads into hell, there's not one road out."

"No man is greater than his prayer life."

"If you don't plan to live the Christian life totally committed to knowing your God and to walking in obedience to Him, then don't begin; for this is what Christianity is all about. It is a change of citizenship, a change of governments, a change of allegiance. If you have no intention of letting Christ rule your life, then forget Christianity; it's not for you." -Kay Arthur